

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:
a catalyst support having tubular passages through which exhaust gases flow in an axial direction;
a coating layer formed on a surface of the catalyst support ~~and, the coating layer being~~ composed of a zeolite, a refractory inorganic oxide, and a first catalyst metal loaded on a surface of the refractory inorganic oxide; and
a second catalyst metal loaded on at least one of a front stage part of the coating layer, ~~which is at~~ an upstream end of the exhaust gas flow; ~~and/or~~ a rear stage part of the coating layer, ~~which is at~~ a downstream end of the exhaust gas flow.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein an axial length of ~~said the~~ front stage part and ~~said the~~ rear stage part are respectively each from one-third to one-tenth of that of said a length of the catalyst ~~for purifying exhaust gases.~~
3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ coating layer comprises:
an HC-adsorbing layer composed of said the zeolite, the HC-adsorbing layer being and formed on the surface of ~~said the~~ catalyst support; and
a catalyst ~~contained~~ containing layer composed of ~~said the~~ refractory inorganic oxide and ~~said the~~ first catalyst metal, the catalyst-containing layer being and formed on the HC-adsorbing layer.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ first catalyst metal comprises at least one element selected from a the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the second catalyst metal comprises at least one element selected from ~~a~~the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the refractory inorganic oxide is alumina.